

Edwards: Stimulus Funding Will Help Key Johnson County Highway Project

(WASHINGTON, DC) – Congressman Chet Edwards told Johnson County leaders in Washington this week, that \$143 million in federal stimulus funding will be used to move the Texas 121 highway project forward.

The Texas 121 Highway extension through Tarrant and Johnson Counties has been a major priority for Johnson County officials who have been concerned recently about delays in starting the project and whether Johnson County would remain a part of the project.

“It is good news that \$143 million in federal stimulus funding will be used by the Regional Transportation Council for the Texas 121 highway project, and I have heard from top Texas transportation officials that this funding should help the project begin sooner than otherwise possible,” Edwards told the Johnson County officials.

On late Wednesday, leaders from Cleburne and Johnson County met with Congressman Edwards to discuss the Texas Highway 121 project and the importance of extending the highway from Fort Worth to Cleburne.

“Extending Texas Highway 121 from Fort Worth to Cleburne is essential to our city’s economic development. This project would mean more jobs and a better quality of life for the citizens of Cleburne and Johnson County,” said Cleburne Mayor Ted Reynolds.

Edwards added, “I will go to the wall to ensure that Johnson County is not cut out of the 121 project, and based on conversations I have had this week with top Texas transportation officials, I am confident that 121 will include Johnson County. Nevertheless, I intend to follow this critical project’s progress on a weekly basis until Johnson County’s interests are assured.” In a recent Cleburne Times Review article on Texas 121, Cleburne Mayor Ted Reynolds said, “I see Texas 121 being as important to Cleburne as the coming of the railroad and the Barnett Shale.”

The recently passed Economic Recovery and Reinvestment Act is providing the State of Texas with \$2.25 billion in transportation funds. This funding will enable TxDOT to move forward with its plan to extend Highway 121 into Johnson County, which was facing possible delays or cancellation.